Numb. 14.

The TORY TATLER.

Libenter erro; nec mihi hunc errorem, quo delector, dum vivo, extorqueri volo. Tully de Senec.

From *Wedneſday December* 27. to *Friday December* 29. 1710.

From my own Apartment, Dec. 28.

THere is nothing in which we can be ſaid to have a Property ſo much as in our own Thoughts and Conceptions: He therefore does me a real Injury that endeavours to rob me of an Opinion which at the ſame time Solaces my Mind and regulates my Conduct. Some Reflections produce an unwearineſs not to be exceeded by many painful Senſations: Why then ſhou'd it not be thought as criminal to diſtract my Mind as to wound my Body? We find notwithſtanding, the World abounds with a ſort of felonious Writers (if I may be allow'd the Expreſſion) who taſte a malicious Pleaſure in labouring to embarraſs others by very diſquieting Doubts, and to involve them in the moſt melancholy Proſpects: This Malignity is gilded over with the ſpecious Colours of a Zeal for Truth and a diſintereſted Benevolence to Mankind; but I ſhould be little oblig'd to his indiſcreet Courteſie who ſhould prick an Artery to inform me what Pain was, or ſhock my Senſes for the Diſcovery of a new Smell. It is true, there are ſome Opinions as pernicious as they are falſe; This might furniſh a ſpacious Field of Speculation, and give a Philoſopher Opportunity to exerciſe both his Parts and his Philantropy: To lay open the Abſurdity of vulgar Errors, and expoſe the ridiculous Effects of popular Superſtition and Frenzy is not ſo difficult as it would be dangerous in any Country but our own: I ſhall therefore occaſionly make this the Subject of my Diſquiſitions, and at the ſame time endeavour to check the growing Infidelity of the Age. Can any Syſtem be contriv'd more agreeable to the Nature of a thinking Eſſence, or be better adapted to advance the Intereſts of Mankind than the Doctrine of a Providence? What more diſmal and diſcouraging than a ſolitary abandon'd World? Our modern Smatterers may boaſt of their Self-ſufficiency and independent Power; but it is very unlucky for them not to be able to diſplay their Bravery without expoſing their Brains; I own the Air of Fortitude they aſſume is as egregious as their Folly, and what they want in Force of Reaſoning, they manfully ſupply with Front and Vanity; but could their little Penetration ſearch beyond the Surface of Nature; how glaring were the Evidence, how indelible the Characters of a ſupreme Being? Is there a floating Atom in the Univerſe that does not carry the viſible Signatures of Omnipotence? Is not the Falling of a Stone, or the Riſing of a Star utterly inexplicable without the Interpoſition of a Divine Influence? I would deſire theſe Sophiſters to account for the Revolution of a Planet, or the Fluttering of a Butter-Fly: If they were capable of Science, I might perhaps exhibit a Scheme of the Cœleſtial Motions, and from the ſurpriſing Harmony of ſuch a Syſtem demonſtrate the Superintendency of the Allpowerful Architect. A ſuperficial View of the various Projections and Tendencies of the Cœleſtial Bodies would amply diſcover the Neceſſity of an infinite Contrivance and Management:

nagement: What elſe could prevent their claſhing and interfering with one another, which muſt have involv'd Nature in a general Confuſion? I imagin, no Sceptick can be ſo hardy as to view this Plan with Indifferency, or be inſenſible to Occular Proof, tho' he may want the Integrity to own Conviction: If we carry'd our Enquiries further, we ſhould find a Providence as neceſſary in the Moral as the Natural World; Human Nature is agitated by numerous Paſſions and diſcording Motives and the whole Race of Mortals bear the moſt legible Marks of Apoſtacy; but the Philoſophers could no more account for than they could reform the diſorders which Vice had introduc'd; it is true, they own'd but deſpair'd of ſupporting the Cauſe of Vertue; The Sages of Antiquity could conceive no other Way to correct the Exorbitancies of Mankind, than by playing upon their Hopes and alarming their Apprehenſions, they endeavour'd to to refine the Paſſions by diſplaying the brighteſt Patterns of heroic Excellence; but no Wonder, their generous Eſſays had not the deſir'd Succeſs; they were not coppied from the real Life, beſides they wanted the divine *Eclat*, the *Dignus vindice Nodus*. I know nothing that can irreſiſtibly ſtrike the Will but a ſteady Contemplation of that glorious Scene of afflicted tho' conſummate Vertue which we find ſo Pathetically wound up in the grand Cataſtrophe, to which this Preparatory: Who can behold the Perfections of our Divine Hero without being inflamed to an imitation of his bright Example, or Glance upon the occaſion of his Agonies without melting at the proſpect of ſuch united Terrors? The Ideas are ſo Thick and Moving that whoever reflects on them muſt, one would think unavoidably be a good Man or at leaſt intend to be ſo.

Advertiſements.

ALL thoſe Perſons, who ſhall pleaſe to honour me with their Correſpondence, are deſired to direct for The Tory Tatler *at* John Baker's *at the* Black-Boy *in* Pater-Noſter-Row.

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